

4

Science Standard
4.2.c.



Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative



Life and Death with Decomposers

Dictionary

A

agriculture

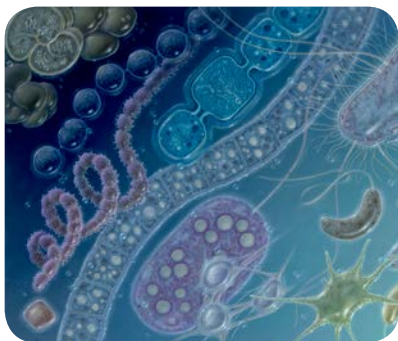
The practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, fiber, or other uses by humans.



B

bacteria

Microscopic, one-celled organisms.



C

compost

Decomposing plant and animal matter that is used to fertilize soil.



decomposers

Bacteria and fungi that get energy from the matter in dead organisms and waste.



decomposition

The breaking down of dead organisms into their chemical and mineral parts.



ecosystem

A community of plants, animals, and their surroundings that depend on each other.



F

fungus

An organism, such as a mushroom, that gets energy and matter primarily from other dead organisms.



H

humus

The dark brown or black layer in soil that consists of decayed organic matter.

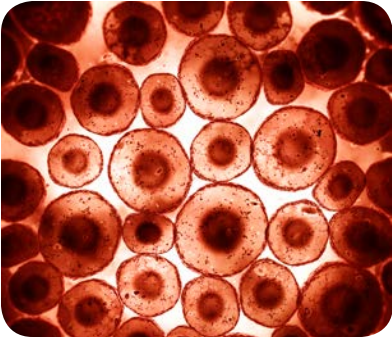


L

landfill

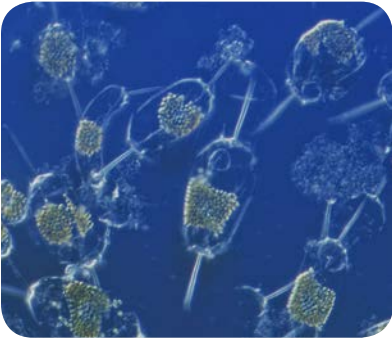
A place where solid waste, such as garbage and trash, is taken and buried.





matter

What all things are made of.



microorganism

A very small organism that can be seen only with the aid of a microscope.



nutrient

A substance that provides nourishment for growth and energy to a living thing.

S

scavenger

An animal that gets its energy and matter by eating dead organisms.



T

topsoil

The dark, fertile, uppermost layer of soil.



W

waste

Undigested foods and liquids that are not used by the body and are expelled; or, materials and products that humans cannot use.





waste management

The system of collecting, transporting, and processing waste created by humans.

Unit Title: **Life and Death With Decomposers**

Grade: **4**

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